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PATENT SPECIFICATION

592,755



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Complete Specification Accepted: Sept. 29, 1947.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Cushion for Conduit and Wire-Supporting Clips

We, ADEL PRECISION PRODUCTS CORP., a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of California, of 10777, Van Owen Street, Burbank, State of California, United States of America, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to clips or supports for holding conduits or wires in the desired position in aircraft and more particularly pertains to improvements in the soft rubber or soft synthetic rubber pads or cushions which constitute conduit-embracing or wire-embracing seats in such clips or supports for the purpose of protecting the conduits or wires against chafing and wear and absorbing or damping vibrations.

Heretofore in this art the cushions have depended upon softness and compressibility and considerable thickness in section to provide the desired cushioning and vibration damping action.

According to the invention there is provided a cushion for a strip which forms a conduit and wire supporting clip, characterized in this, that the cushion has a strip-like body provided with an elongated flange projecting lengthwise from the strip of which the clip is formed, said flange being subject to flexure both laterally and radially and forming the cushioning seat for the conduit or wires embraced by the clip.

In order that the invention may be well understood preferred embodiments thereof by way of example will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a part side elevational, part sectional view of a conduit clip embodying the present invention as installed;

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of the cushion as removed from the clip;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to Fig. 2 showing a modified form

of cushion as it would appear in use;

Fig. 6 is a cross section of the cushion shown in Fig. 5 removed from the clip;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2 of another modified form of cushion as it would appear when in use;

Fig. 9 is a cross sectional view of the cushion shown in Fig. 8 removed from the clip;

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 9;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2 of a third modified form of cushion as in use;

Fig. 12 is a cross sectional view of the cushion shown in Fig. 11 removed from the clip;

Fig. 13 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing a fourth modified cushion as in use in an installed clip;

Fig. 15 is a cross section of the cushion shown in Fig. 14 as removed from the clip;

Fig. 16 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 15;

Fig. 17 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2 of a fifth modified form of cushion as used in an installed clip;

Fig. 18 is a cross section of the cushion shown in Fig. 17 as removed from the clip;

Fig. 19 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 18;

Fig. 20 is a cross section similar to Fig. 2 showing a sixth modified form of cushion when in use;

Fig. 21 is a cross section of the cushion of Fig. 20 removed from the clip;

Fig. 22 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 21;

Fig. 23 is a cross section similar to Fig. 2 of a seventh modified form of cushion as used in an installed clip;

Fig. 24 is a cross section of the cushion of Fig. 23 removed from the clip;

Fig. 25 is a fragmentary plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 24;

Fig. 26 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2 of an eighth modified form of

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cushion on an installed clip;

Fig. 27 is a cross section of the cushion of Fig. 26 as removed;

Fig. 28 is a fragmentary top plan view of the cushion shown in Fig. 27.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, particularly to Figs. 1 and 2 thereof, it is seen that a conduit or wire supporting clip of the type with which our improved cushion is used comprises a relatively stiff strap 1 of metal or other suitable material formed into a loop for embracing a conduit or wires and provided with ear-like apertured ends 2 through which a fastening 3 is inserted to clamp the clip on a conduit or wire such as the conduit 4 here shown, and to secure it to a structural part 5.

Throughout the drawings we have shown different forms of cushions and each is deemed to embody the present invention in that it includes a strip-like base or body portion adapted to lie upon the inner face of the strap of a clip such as the strap 1 shown in Figs. 1 and 2, as a support for a relatively flexible "built-up" or protuberant portion or member extending radially inward from the inner face of said body or base portion to provide a conduit or wire-embracing seat which by reason of formation and flexibility relative to the body strip rather than its elasticity or compressibility or softness or dependence on these qualities in the body portion, sustains the conduit or wire within the clip and serves as a protective and vibration damping pad.

The conduit or wire supporting formations projecting from the body strips in all the forms hereof are subject to flexure both laterally and inwardly relative to the body strip and therefore provide cushioned seats encircling and supporting the wires or conduits in the manner and for the purpose stated herein.

Another important feature of the present invention is that the conduit sustaining formation on the body strip of each form of the invention supports the conduit in circumferentially spaced relation to the body strip and does not depend upon any cushioning action of such strip.

The cushion shown in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive comprises an elongated relatively thin strip-like body or base portion 6 formed of rubber, synthetic rubber or the like and which may be relatively stiff and hard inasmuch as it is not depended upon as in cushions heretofore made as a cushioning element, but merely serves as a base or support and lies flat upon the inner surface of the strap 1 so as to encircle the conduit 4.

Any suitable means may be employed to affix the base or body portion 6 to the

strap 1 and as here shown flexible flanges 7 are provided on the longitudinal margins of the portion 6 as integral parts thereof to embrace the longitudinal edges and outer face of the strap as shown in Fig. 2.

Formed integral with the inner face of the body portion 6 and extending the full length thereof are protuberances in the form of hollow or tubular ribs 8 of nearly circular cross section and extremely thin-walled, the body portion 6 comprising a small part of "cylindrical" wall of each rib. As here shown each of the ribs 8 are extended parallel and adjacent to a longitudinal edge of the body strip 6. While we have shown but two such ribs three or more may obviously be used as this form of cushion constitutes a plurality of highly flexible tubular ribs.

By making the walls and ribs 8 of very thin sections and giving the ribs a tubular form they become quite flexible and serve as a most effective vibration damping and cushioning seat for the conduit 4 as shown in Fig. 2, with the ribs somewhat flattened out or collapsed but yet providing conduit-embracing and sustaining surfaces which are spaced inwardly and circumferentially from the body portion or strip 6.

It is now seen that these ribs need not be "soft cured" or thick walled to provide the desired cushioning action because the tubular formation and thin walls give the requisite supporting action and flexibility making it unnecessary to depend on the yieldability or compressibility of the material itself. Thus it is seen that non-critical material having a low rubber or synthetic rubber content or a material not even containing these ingredients but having considerable flexibility and other qualities corresponding to semi-hard rubber, may be used in making the entire cushion.

Fig. 5, 6 and 7 show a modified form of cushion embodying a thin base or body 9, flanges 10 and tubular ribs 11 all identical with the corresponding parts of the form of cushion shown in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive except that the ribs 11 are split as at 12 along the longitudinal median line thereof to increase the flexibility of the ribs and provide for closer conformation thereof to the curvature of the conduit. Fig. 5 shows the positions assumed by these split ribs when supporting a conduit or a group of wires.

Figs. 8, 9 and 10 show another modified form of cushion embodying a base or body strip 13, flanges 14 and tubular ribs 15 identical with the corresponding parts in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive except that a slit or split 16 extends longitudinally of

desired flexibility of the cushion without relying on the cushion qualities of the material itself.

It is now apparent that the improved 5 cushion makes it unnecessary to use "soft-cured" rubber or synthetic rubber of considerable thickness as heretofore required in this art. Instead the material may be semi-hard and of much 10 thinner section to the end that a less expensive and less critical material may be used satisfactorily.

Another advantage afforded by the cushion hereof is that it provides, when 15 installed on a clip, for securely holding conduits or wires of various diameters as governed by its normal inside dimension to the fully constricted inside dimension.

20 While we have shown and described specific embodiments of our invention we do not limit ourselves to the exact details of construction set forth, and the invention embraces such changes, modifications and equivalents of the parts and 25 their formation and arrangement as come within the purview of the appended claims.

Having now particularly described and 30 ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. A cushion for a strip which forms 35 a conduit and wire supporting clip, characterized in this, that the cushion has a strip-like body provided with an elongated flange projecting lengthwise from the strip of which the clip is 40 formed, said flange being subject to flexure both laterally and radially and forming the cushioning seat for the conduit or wires embraced by the clip.

2. A cushion for a strip, as set forth

in Claim 1, in which the flange serving 45 as seat portion for the conduit or wires is formed as a tubular flexible member extending longitudinally of the body of the strip.

3. A cushion for a strip, as set forth 50 in Claims 1 and 2, in which the tubular flexible member constituting a flange rising from the body of the strip is split longitudinally to facilitate flexing inwardly relative to the body. 55

4. A cushion for a strip, as set forth in Claim 2, in which the tubular member is arcuate in cross-section to permit the outer portions to flex inwardly in 60 radial direction relative to the body of the strip.

5. A cushion for a strip, as set forth in Claim 2, including two tubular members or nearly tubular members which are inclined towards the mid-width of 65 the body of the strip.

6. A cushion for a strip, as set forth in Claims 1 and 2, wherein the tubular member formed on the body of the strip is produced as a cellular structure on that 70 face of the body which is directed towards the conduit to be supported thereby.

7. A cushion for a strip, as set forth in Claims 1 and 2, in which the flanged tubular member supporting the conduit 75 has an inverted V-shape, with its apical portion disposed to engage the conduit or wires.

8. A cushion for a strip, substantially as described and shown, and for the purpose set forth. 80

Dated this 13th day of September, 1944.

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each rib along the inner sides thereof where joined to the base or body strip 13. This arrangement affords added flexibility and the ribs appear as shown in Fig. 8 when supporting the conduit.

Figs. 11 to 13 inclusive show another modified form of cushion wherein the body strip 17, flanges 18 and ribs 19 are of the same construction and arrangement as shown in Figs. 1 to 10 inclusive except that the ribs 19 have longitudinal slits or splits 20 along their outer sides where joined to the body strip, this arrangement being the opposite of that shown in Fig. 8.

Figs. 14, 15 and 16 show another modification wherein the body strip 21 and flanges 22 correspond to the body strip and flanges shown in Figs. 1 to 4, but the protuberant portions constitute tubular ribs 23 of inverted V-shape in cross-section located in the substantially same relative position on the body strip as are the tubular ribs of circular section shown in the forms of the invention previously described. The ribs 23 are separated from the body strip by means of longitudinal slits 24 along the innermost walls of the ribs where they would otherwise be joined to the body strip, to increase the flexibility thereof. The apices of the inverted V-shaped ribs support the conduit as shown in Fig. 14, said ribs then collapsing to the extent shown, and affording flexible and cushioned seats having several points of contact per rib and reliably holding the conduit in place so that wear on the latter is prevented and vibrations thereof are effectively absorbed.

Figs. 17, 18 and 19 show another form of cushion embodying the invention wherein a body strip 25 and side or edge flanges 26 correspond to similar parts of previously described cushions hereof, but in which the protuberant conduit or wire supporting members formed integral with the strip 25, are in the form of longitudinal flanges or ribs 27 which are arcuate in cross section and extend convergently from the body strip and are reduced in thickness towards their outer longitudinal edges. These flanges or ribs provide a cushioned support for the conduit by reason of their flexibility and appear approximately as shown in Fig. 17 when supporting the conduit, each rib providing a wide seating surface and holding the conduit circumferentially spaced from the body strip as is the case with the other cushions hereof. Considering the parts 23 shown in Fig. 15 as flanges, the flanges are both located in a parallel spaced relation to the mid-width or median line of the body strip 25 and on opposite sides thereof, said flanges

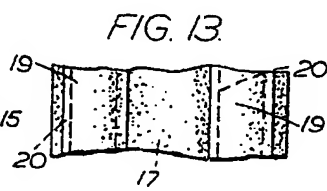
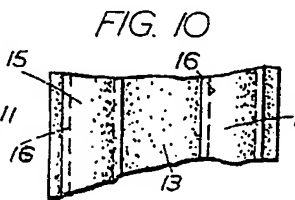
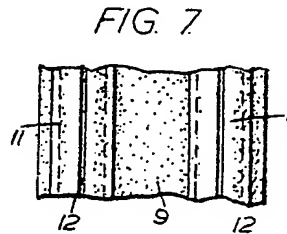
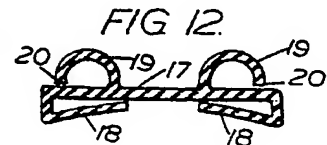
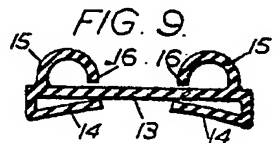
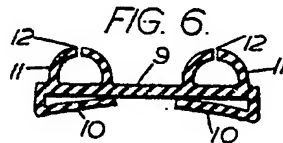
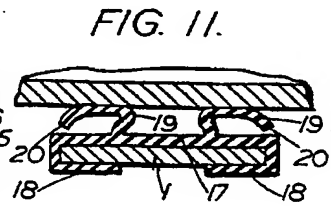
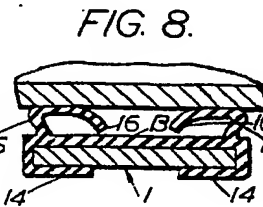
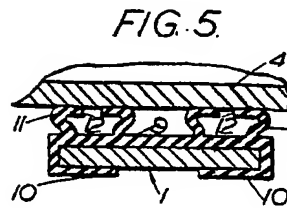
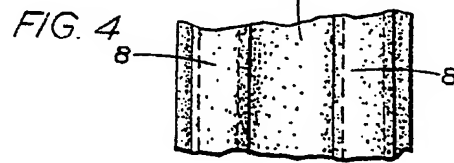
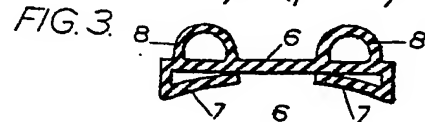
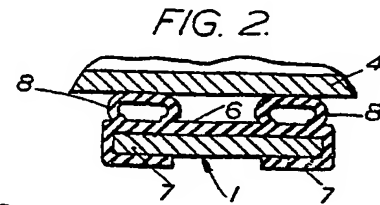
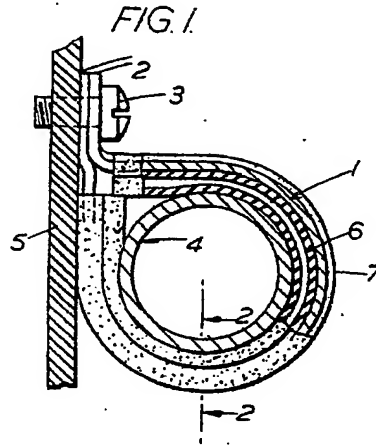
being deflectable and inclining toward the median line, and the same may be said of the parts 15 in Fig. 9 and the parts 27 in Fig. 18.

Figs. 20, 21 and 22 illustrate another modification of the cushion wherein the base or body strip 28 and the flanges 29 thereon are of the same construction, material and formation as the corresponding parts of the other forms of cushions hereinbefore described. In this modification the "built-up" or protuberant conduit or wire seating portion consists of a cellular structure 30 formed integral with the strip 28 in the nature of a plurality of integral or connected tubes of rectangular cross section presenting a flat seat or strip 31 corresponding in size and thickness to the base 28 but spaced therefrom by the wall or web members 32. In this cushion the cellular structure is quite flexible and affords requisite cushioning by reason of the thin-walled and cellular formation rather than due to softness or yieldability of the material itself. As shown in Fig. 20 the cellular structure will partially collapse when the clip is applied to the conduit but will support the conduit in circumferentially spaced relation to the body strip 28.

Figs. 23 to 25 show another modified form of cushion wherein the body strip 33, flanges 34 and cellular protuberant portion 34 are of the same formation as shown in Figs. 20 to 22, but the conduit supporting surface of the portion 35 is provided with a plurality of longitudinal solid ribs 36. These ribs as shown in Fig. 23 will engage the conduit at spaced points, while the portions 37 of the structure 35 lying on opposite sides of the ribs will also provide seating surfaces when the structure 35 is collapsed under the load of the conduit and the tightening of the clip. This arrangement affords a plurality of spaced conduits engaging ribs throughout the face of the structure 35 which is opposed to the conduit.

Figs. 26 to 28 show another modification wherein the base strip 38, flanges 39, cellular structure 40 and ribs 41 on the latter are of the same formation as shown in Figs. 23 to 25 except that the walls 42 of the cellular structure are initially bowed or bent to collapse in a predetermined direction or in other words in an inward direction as shown in Fig. 26. This collapsed portion of these walls lies under and supports the strip 43 as a reinforcing element as clearly shown in Fig. 26. Each wall is normally of V-shaped section. This arrangement provides greater strength yet affords the

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]



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